

Abdu'l-Bahá's Travels to the West

Unity Feast
29 June 1912

Travels of 'Abdu'l-Bahá 25

On 20 June in New York, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá said:

...it is my wish to give a large feast of unity.... It must be outdoors under the trees, in some location away from city noise—like a Persian garden. The food will be Persian food.... We will have a general meeting in which hearts will be bound together, spirits blended and a new foundation for unity established. All the friends will come.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, 74)

On 20 June in New York, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá said:

They will be my guests. They will be as the parts and members of one body. The spirit of life manifest in that body will be one spirit. The foundation of that temple of unity will be one foundation. Each will be a stone in that foundation, solid and interdependent. Each will be as a leaf, blossom or fruit upon one tree. For the sake of fellowship and unity I desire this feast and spiritual gathering.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, 74)

Unity Feast

To escape from the heat, the Master went to Montclair, New Jersey, 20-25 June, and back to New York 25-29 June.

On 29 June 1912, many people gathered in the garden of Roy Wilhelm in West Englewood (now Teaneck), New Jersey, for a Unity Feast hosted by 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Chairs were set in a circle under the evergreen trees. A carpet of flowers covered the lawn. The air was pure, a breeze picked up. He gave a talk outdoors.



Unity Feast, New Jersey, 29 June 1912

Unity Feast - 1

This is a delightful gathering; you have come here with sincere intentions, and the purpose of all present is the attainment of the virtues of God. The motive is attraction to the divine Kingdom. Since the desire of all is unity and agreement, it is certain that this meeting will be productive of great results. It will be the cause of attracting a new bounty, for we are turning to the Kingdom of Abhá, seeking the infinite bestowals of the Lord.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 76)

Unity Feast - 2

This is a new Day, and this hour is a new Hour in which we have come together. Surely the Sun of Reality with its full effulgence will illumine us, and the darkness of disagreements will disappear. The utmost love and unity will result; the favors of God will encompass us; the pathway of the Kingdom will be made easy. Like candles these souls will become ignited and made radiant through the lights of supreme guidance.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 76)



Unity Feast, New Jersey, 29 June 1912

Unity Feast - 3

Be happy and joyous because the bestowals of God are intended for you and the life of the Holy Spirit is breathing upon you.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 76)

Unity Feast - 4

Rejoice, for the heavenly table is prepared for you.

Rejoice, for the angels of heaven are your assistants and helpers.

Rejoice, for the glance of the Blessed Beauty, Bahá'u'lláh, is directed upon you.

Rejoice, for Bahá'u'lláh is your Protector.

Rejoice, for the everlasting glory is destined for you.

Rejoice, for the eternal life is awaiting you.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 76)



Unity Feast, New Jersey, 29 June 1912

Unity Feast - 5

May you become as the waves of one sea, stars of the same heaven, fruits adorning the same tree, roses of one garden in order that through you the oneness of humanity may establish its temple in the world of mankind, for you are the ones who are called to uplift the cause of unity among the nations of the earth.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 76)

Unity Feast - 6

First, you must become united and agreed among yourselves. You must be exceedingly kind and loving toward each other, willing to forfeit life in the pathway of another's happiness. You must be ready to sacrifice your possessions in another's behalf. The rich among you must show compassion toward the poor, and the well-to-do must look after those in distress.

Unity Feast - 7

Your utmost desire must be to confer happiness upon each other. Each one must be the servant of the others, thoughtful of their comfort and welfare. In the path of God one must forget himself entirely. He must not consider his own pleasure but seek the pleasure of others. He must not desire glory nor gifts of bounty for himself but seek these gifts and blessings for his brothers and sisters.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 76)



Unity Feast, New Jersey, 29 June 1912

Unity Feast

The Master anointed each guest with attar of rose. When He finished, the sound of thunder could be heard and dark clouds were gathering. Abdu'l-Bahá walked a little way down the road, sat in a chair, and raised His face to the sky. A strong wind parted the rain-filled clouds, and the feast could continue. The guests ate Persian pilaf, sherbet and sweet.

(Hussein Ahdieh and Hillary Chapman, *Abdu'l-Bahá in New York*, Juxta Publishing Limited, 2012, pp. 121-122)



Unity Feast, New Jersey, 29 June 1912